

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

SPECIFICATION

An inadvertent error in the specification, at page 1, 4<sup>th</sup> line of the third paragraph, has been corrected. In the above new paragraph three, US 5,509,736 has been changed to US 5,409,736 in the third paragraph on page 1.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

The Examiner cites WO-A-92 10532 as denying novelty to Claims 1-8 of the present application. Applicant had previously amended Claim 1, in the PCT prosecution, to limit it to cellulosic paper. The phrase "or textile" is now deleted. The cited reference discloses the coating of polymers with solutions of amorphous fluoropolymers for use as vascular grafts. The examples teach only the coating of polyester textiles. Cellulosic paper are clearly very different chemically and structurally different from polyester textiles. Many examples of differences in behavior between polyester and cellulosic paper are noted. These include differences in printing, dyeing and behavior in solvents. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would never use a cellulosic paper as a vascular graft because of its degradation in bodily fluids, even if protected with a coating derived from treatment by an amorphous fluoropolymer solution. The observed fact that the paper is strengthened upon treatment with the fluoropolymer solution is surprising in that fluoropolymers are very inert and are not expected to adhere strongly to the fibers of the paper. In summary, Paton (WO-A-92 10532) discloses the treatment of a polyester textile for use as a vascular graft with improved thrombogenic properties. Cellulosic papers are distinct from textiles in regard to many properties including printing, dyeing and behavior in solvents. The present invention teaches that the paper is strengthened by the treatment.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

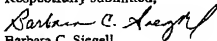
Claims 9 and 10 are rejected as obvious in view of WO 92/10532. The present specification states that the appearance of treated newsprint is not visibly altered by the present coatings process; thus, it makes the process useful for preservation of articles of historic or artistic significance. The observation that the pattern is not obscured is not obvious to one of skill in the art without actually performing the procedure. In summary, Applicant argues that it is not obvious that printing on a textile would not be obscured by the

deposition of the fluoropolymer or that printing would not degrade in contact with the solvent. The present invention does not alter the appearance of the article being treated.

In view of the above discussion and the amendment of the specification and certain claims herein, applicant respectfully requests that the Claims 1-10, as amended, be allowed.

Should anything further is needed to advance allowance of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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